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THE GRUMBLER:

CONTAINING

SIXTEEN ESSAYS,

BY THE LATE

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Of London and Perth.

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PREFACE.

THE reader will perceive from the firſt number, that theſe eſſays were addreſſed to the editor of a periodical paper, his intimate friend. They form only a ſmall part of a work, for which the ingenious author had been collecting and preparing materials for ſeveral years; the progreſs of which was ſuſpended by his entire attention being devoted to purſuits of greater intereſt and importance, and the completion finally prevented by his death. It was undoubtedly his intention to have them reprinted, and iſſued into the world in a more permanent form: the publiſher therefore fulfils the author's deſign, as far as it is now practicable. The eſſays themſelves are written in a plain, familiar and unaffected ſtyle, exactly ſuited to convey the reflections that occurred on what is ridiculous and abſurd, rather

ther than on what is vicious, in life and manners; and though not recommended to the reader by any laboured embelliſhment, or the poliſh of ſtudied compoſition, they abound with original obſervation, juſt ſatire, and very pleaſant, if not always perfectly refined, humour.

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THE

THE GRUMBLER.

No. I.

IT is an old, and I believe an acknowledged, obſervation, that Engliſhmen, aſſembled in a ſtage coach or other public vehicle, are, at their firſt meeting, ſhy, and apparently actuated by a kind of repulſive power, till jumbled together into a degree of intimacy, that is, till they have reciprocally announced themſelves, their ſtations, and connections. This being the caſe, and as I may probably take more than one journey in the vehicle of this paper, in company of ſome of the preſent readers, I think it neceſſary to introduce myſelf to them, to give them ſome traits of my diſpoſition and peculiarities, with the different cauſes which have conſpired to conſtitute me, what I ſhall for the future ſtile myſelf—*A Grumbler.*

To begin with my age—I am ſomewhat paſt fifty, and, though of a hale conſtitution, I have nevertheleſs received various bodily items and

hints, that I am not exactly what I was twenty years ago. Now, as the idea of a decline is by no means an agreeable one, I comfort myself by attributing every ach and pain to the changeable weather of our climate, with which, using the freedom of an Engliſhman, I am continually finding fault. I am alſo ſometimes led to conceive the ladies do not treat me with their uſual attention; but this I charge to the extreme folly of the preſent times, which I cannot, however, help condemning.

The make of my perſon is not a little calculated to produce diſcontent; for though my body contains as many cubic inches of fleſh as would form a perſonable man, theſe are ſo partially diſtributed, that my circumference is nearly double my height; added to this, I have that appendage to my back, which is by vulgar naturaliſts held as a mark of nobility, entitling the bearer to the appellation of—*My Lord.* The frequent recapitulation of this title makes me diſlike to ſtir abroad on foot; I cannot ride on horſeback, and have not a ſufficient income to afford a carriage, except on extraordinary occaſions.

With reſpect to politics, I am a ſtaunch Oppoſition-man and Grumbletonian, having neither place,

place, contract, nor penſion; bred to no trade or profeſſion, I have occaſionally been the humble companion of men in power; but my merits and abilities have been overlooked by them all.

Laſtly, to complete the catalogue of the means of ſouring my temper, after twenty years cloſe attendance on the humours of a peeviſh old maiden aunt, (a kind of Lady Bountiful) and during that time patiently liſtening to the roll of her former admirers, and the good offers ſhe has refuſed, taking all the noſtrums in her receipt-book for different diſorders, ſwallowing her jellies and cuſtards till ready to burſt, ſuffering the impertinence of her favourite maid, being repeatedly bitten by her lap-dog, pinched by her parrot, and ſcratched by her cat—all this in hopes of becoming her heir—ſhe has, in the ſixty-ninth year of her age, thrown herſelf into the arms of Mr. Dermot O'Flannagan, a Patagonian Quarter-maſter of an Iriſh regiment of horſe.

Having, from theſe and various other circumſtances, acquired a habit of grumbling on all occaſions, and having neither wife, children, nieces, or dependants, the common objects on whom theſe acrimonious particles are uſually diſcharged, I have by degrees grumbled away all my ac-

quaintances, except one old deaf lady, and thereby at length found my error, and in vain endeavoured to correct it; but, alas! it has taken too deep root in my conſtitution. This has obliged me to alter my plan, and convert this diſpoſition to the public ſervice, by venting my ſpleen on the vices and follies of the times. If by accident it ſhould in any inſtance produce a reformation, I ſhall have done ſome good; if not, it will at leaſt, in a ſcarcity of news, ſerve to fill up a ſpace in your paper, and ſave you the trouble of reviving ſome bloody murder, or fabricating ſome wonderful ſea-monſter driven aſhore near Deal or Dover.

No. II.

THE buſineſs of ſtanding godmother and godfather to children is a matter of much more ſerious conſideration and conſequence, than is generally conceived; I do not mean as to the ſolemn undertaking to inſtruct the infant in the duties of our religion—a ſubject more proper for the pulpit than this eſſay—but I confine myſelf ſimply to the naming of the child, whoſe future comfort, during great part of its life, depends on the name the ſponſors are pleaſed to give it. Battles innumerable await a youth of ſpirit labouring under a ſingular name. The rage for fine names is incredible. Among the middle and lower order of tradeſmen, we find few Joans, Hannahs, Sarahs, Rachaels, or Elizabeths—but Anna-Marias, Charlotte-Matildas, Eliza-Sophias, and ſuch other romantic and royal appellations fill the parſon's baptiſmal regiſter, and liſts of the little boarding-ſchools about Stoke Newington, Hoxton, and Iſlington, where young ladies of that rank receive the rudiments of their education. High-flown names of this kind ſound ludicrouſly, when directed to perform the ordinary houſehold drud-

gery. It would be next to impoſſible to refrain from ſmiling, on hearing Clariſſa ordered to wind up the jack, and Catherine-Ann-Maria to empty the aſh-tub, or fetch a pail of water.

I remember a ſchool-fellow of mine, who was a ſtriking inſtance of the inconvenience of a remarkable chriſtian name. He was a very honeſt ſimple lad, unluckily called Solomon. His name and mental abilities formed too ſtrong a contraſt, to eſcape the leaſt boy in the ſchool; therefore, not to ſpeak of the jokes with which it furniſhed his companions, it lay too obvious to eſcape the maſter, who unfortunately was a punſter, and who, in correcting him for a fault, could not refrain from imbittering the chaſtiſement with ſome alluſion to his name, or compariſon of his wiſdom or his judgment, with thoſe of his royal nameſake. If he appeared in a new coat, the whole ſchool was convened by ſome wag or other, to ſee King Solomon in all his glory.

A godfather would do well to avoid ſuch names as admit of any ridiculous diminutives, or are ſubject to vulgar witticiſms. Edward, for example, is a name dignified by the Black Prince, and that warlike monarch, Edward III. yet

yet all their laurels ſcarcely avail againſt the ridiculous appellations of *Neddy* or *Teddy* my godſon.

Daniel, though the name of a prophet, is, as every ſchool-boy knows, ſubject to many bye-words and ſcurvy rhymes, which I will not here repeat. If one of that name pretends to foreſee any thing likely to happen, he is jeeringly ſaluted as a prophet; and if he appears uneaſy, terrified, or ſurprized, he is ſaid to look as if juſt come out of the lion's den.

Peter is another name—I know not why—to which the idea of an odd fellow is generally annexed. There is ſcarce a regiment but has an officer nicknamed Peter, who is always an eccentric being, and frequently a ſtupid fellow. Was it not that Greek is almoſt as rare among military people as money, I ſhould ſuſpect it was built on ſome alluſion to the Greek word ſignifying a *ſtone*.

Regard ſhould likewiſe be had to the ſphere of life in which the boy is likely to move.—Theophilus, Nathaniel, Theodoſius, Obadiah, Noah, and Michael, are very good names for a diſſenting miniſter, but would make an indifferent

ferent figure on a muſter-roll, or liſt of dramatic performers in a ſtrolling company.

On the other hand—George, Alexander, Guy, Sampſon, and Orlando, are exceeding good military names, and convey the ideas of fighting men, but ſavour too much of aſſault and battery to appear to advantage in a court of law. Hard names give the bearers ſomewhat like the external huſk of learning; and Oneſiphorus, Vincentius, Euſtatius, and Deſiderius, look well at the bottom of a legal opinion, or phyſical preſcription, eſpecially if precurſors to D. D. L. L. D. or F. R. S.

In many profeſſions, it is well known a happy name has been the cauſe of a great fortune. Thus a Lottery-office-keeper, by the ſurname of Goodluck, either real or aſſumed, almoſt monopolized the ſale of tickets. Had he been chriſtened Fortunatus, nothing could have withſtood him. Several pretty little competencies were afterwards picked up by gentlemen in the ſame profeſſion, under the names of Wingold, Sharegold, &c. &c.

LETTER III.

THE good people of England are all extremely fond of expenſive funerals; but this is moſt conſpicuous in perſons of the lower order, and of them the women. Many a wife, who hated her huſband moſt cordially, and never ſuffered him to enjoy one quiet day during his life-time, expends what ought to maintain her family for ſix months, that the poor dear ſoul may have a handſome funeral, a velvet pall, with braſs handles and hinges to the coffin; and will want ſhoes and ſtockings for a year to come, that the parſon may be ſhod all round, that is, equipped with a hat-band, ſcarf, and gloves.

It is in England only that the epithets of *delightful* and *charming* are applied to ſhrouds and coffins, and that with ſuch energy, as almoſt to make one believe the ſpeaker envied the perſon for whom they were provided. In the Weſt of England, I knew a number of old alms women each club their only ſixpence, and deprive themſelves of their afternoon's pipe and cogue, to pay for the hire of the beſt velvet pall, for one of their ſiſterhood, to whom they would

would not have contributed one penny to ſave her life, or releaſe her from a gaol.

To be buried, what is called *decently*, is a great object with almoſt every inferior tradeſman or artificer; and a ſurviving huſband or wife, who ſhould expend no more on the burial of their dear ſpouſe, than their ſituation abſolutely required and juſtified, would run the riſque of being themſelves torn to pieces, or interred alive, for having put their huſband or wife into the ground like a dog.

In one extravagance we, however, fall ſhort of our anceſtors; that is, in the article of funeral ſermons, which are not now ſo much in uſe. Formerly, for a funeral ſermon, many a diſconſolate widow or widower has paid their laſt half-guinea, guinea, or even more, according to the quantity of Latin with which it was larded.

Faſhion and foppery affect even this laſt exhibition of human vanity. Particular undertakers are famous for the elegant curve of their coffins, the neatneſs of their feather-edge, and taſte in the hinges, plates, and decorations, but more eſpecially for the becoming and genteel

cut

cut of their ſhrouds. Nor is perſonal flattery confined to the living, but is alſo poured forth on the dead; nothing being more common than to hear a nurſe compliment the relations of the deceaſed, by declaring her maſter or miſtreſs makes the fineſt corpſe ſhe has ſeen this many a day.

In London, an expenſive part of a country funeral is ſaved, at leaſt to the meaner people; that is, the wooden rail or head-ſtone, inſcribed with rude ill-ſpelt poetry, and decorated with ſculls, croſs bones, Time with his ſcythe and hour-glaſs, or little blubber-cheeked cherubims blowing the laſt trumpet.

On the other hand, when a ſucceſsful haberdaſher or tallow-chandler is buried in his pariſh church, vanity often prompts his widow or heirs to put up a monument to his memory, under the accumulation of the following expences:— Forty pounds to the herald's office for a coat of arms; ten guineas to the maſter of the free-ſchool, for a dozen Latin hexameters, recording his birth and virtues; and fifty guineas for a ſmall marble monument. In return for all this expence, the family will have an armiger on

on record; his epitaph, being in Latin, cannot be read and contradicted by his neighbours and in a few ſucceſſive generations, the virtu there attributed to him may paſs current.

No. IV.

No. IV.

MANY words in the Engliſh language, owing to the preſent perverſion of manners, carry no poſitive or general ideas with them, nay, have even contradictory meanings, according to the latitude or longitude in which they are ſpoken. To know what is meant by any particular appellation, you muſt be acquainted with the age, conſtitution, party, reſidence, amuſements, and profeſſion of the ſpeaker.

For want of the previous conſideration of ſome of theſe articles, I had like to have got into an ugly ſcrape with a Captain O'Flannaghan, who was recommended to me by a relation I have in Ireland, as a gentleman of remarkable honour. On this character I introduced him into my family, and luckily detected him in an attempt to debauch my wife, and elope with my eldeſt daughter, after having, as I believe, cheated me out of a conſiderable ſum of money at cards. On coming to an eclairciſſement, he demanded ſatisfaction, for what he called an affront; and it was with the utmoſt difficulty I eſcaped a duel. I have ſince learnt, from my couſin, who has ſerved long in the army, that by a man of honour he meant only

a man of courage—one that was always ready to fight on any occaſion, right or wrong.

Another inſtance I met with in the country. In a viſit to a friend, at a great town in the North, I accompanied him to the public bowling-green, where I ſaw a very genteel looking man, who ſeemed to be ſhunned by every body. By accident, entering into converſation with him, I found him a very well-informed, polite, and agreeable gentleman. In my way home, I could not help taking notice of what I had obſerved, and enquired of my friend the cauſe of this gentleman being thus evidently diſregarded. "Cauſe enough," anſwered he; "that fellow is the greateſt ſcoundrel upon earth."—"What has he done?" ſaid I—"Has he any unnatural vices? Has he debauched the wife or daughter of his friend? Or is he a bad huſband or father?"—"We don't trouble ourſelves about his amours or connections," peevithly anſwered my friend; "but to do the fellow juſtice, there is nothing of that—he is beſides both a good huſband and father." "What then, has he committed a murder, or been guilty of treaſon?" "No," added my friend—"beſides, we have nothing to do with his quarrels, and don't trouble our heads with his party; we

we have nothing to ſay againſt him on thoſe ſubjects." "What then, in the name of Fortune, can it be! Is he a cheat, a blacklegs, or an uſurer?" "No, no!" replied my friend, "no ſuch thing; but if you will have it, know then, that good-looking plauſible villain, in his own farm-yard, ſhot a bitch-fox, big with young."—Recollecting that my friend, and moſt of the gentlemen on the green, were ſtaunch fox-hunters, my wonder ceaſed.

Nor are the times of the day any more marked or poſitive than other words; but morning, noon, and evening, mean very differently from different perſons, and in different places. I remember formerly having received an appointment to wait on a noble Lord the next morning, for want of duly conſidering his Lordſhip's rank and amuſements, I went at ten o'clock; but after knocking full half an hour, was convinced by a ſlip-ſhod footman, that morning would not commence in that houſe till ſome hours after the ſun had paſſed the meridian.

On a ſimilar appointment from a Welch 'Squire, I was at his door at eight, having been told he was an early man; but judge my ſurprize, when his ſervant informed me, his maſter

went out in the morning. On enquiry, I found morning in that houſe did not reach later than ſeven o'clock.

An *honeſt fellow*, no longer ago than laſt week, cheated me confoundedly in a horſe. He was recommended to me by my couſin, Juſtice Tankard. On my remonſtrating to him the falſe character he had drawn of his friend, I learnt that with him an honeſt fellow meant only one who would not baulk his glaſs, and could ſwallow ſix bottles of port at a ſitting.

The term of *good man* has, it is well known, an almoſt infinite number of ſignifications, ſome of them diametrically oppoſite to each other, according to the different local ſituations where it is uſed, and the perſons by whom it is uttered; but among them all, it is not more ſtrange than true, that it is rarely uſed to expreſs its literal meaning.

No. V.

AMONG the numerous purchaſers of coins, marbles, bronzes, antiquities, and natural hiſtory, how few of them have their purſuits directed to any rational object.

Ancient coins, inſcriptions, or ſculptures, are only ſo far uſeful, as they tend to the illuſtration of hiſtory, chronology, or the ſtate of the arts, at the time they were executed. Nor are the greateſt collections of natural hiſtory worth preſerving, unleſs employed in enabling us to conceive ſome of the wiſe and wonderful arrangements of the Creator.

Theſe are indeed the proper objects; but I fear the majority of our preſent collectors are actuated by other motives, and rather hope that being poſſeſſed of rare and coſtly articles will ſerve for their paſſport to fame, be admitted as a proof of their learning and love of the ſciences, and at the ſame time obliquely inſinuate ſome idea of their riches.

Many perſons feel a kind of pre-eminency from poſſeſſing an unique of any ſpecies of virtu. This idea was carried ſo far by a connoiſſeur lately deceaſed, that he has been known to pur-

chaſe duplicates of rare prints, at very conſiderable prices, and afterwards to deſtroy them, in order to render them ſtill more ſcarce.

Beſides theſe, there are a ſpecies of collectors, who ſeem to have a rage for every ſtrange and out-of-the-way production of either Art or Nature, without having any particular end or deſign; ſuch was the man whoſe character is here given.

Jack Cockle was from his infancy a lover of rarities; all uncommon things were his game; when at ſchool, he would give half his week's allowance for a taw of any uncommon ſize or colour, a double wall-nut, a Georgius halfpenny, or a white mouſe; in ſhort, any thing uncommon, whether natural or artificial, excited his deſire to poſſeſs it.

As he grew up, his taſte dilated, and monſtrous births and anatomical preparations were added to the catalogue of his reſearches. Under this influence, I have known him ride twenty miles to purchaſe a tortoiſeſhell boar cat, a kitten with three eyes, or a pig with but one ear. All deviations from the common walk of Nature, whether of deficiency or redundancy, were his deſiderata.

Being

Being poſſeſſed of plenty of money, it may eaſily be conceived that every thing deemed extraordinary, found, born, or produced, within forty miles of his reſidence, was brought to him; ſo that in a ſhort time his muſeum was filled with monſters and curioſities of every denomination, dried, ſtuffed, and floating in ſpirits; and as his poſſeſſions encreaſed, his rage for collecting grew more violent. This purſuit not only ſerved to amuſe him, but beſides made him derive a portion of ſatisfaction from real misfortunes. For inſtance:—Once, when his wife miſcarried of a ſon and heir, he derived great comfort from bottling the fœtus of the young 'Squire. Another time, at the manifeſt riſque of his life, he had a very large wen cut from his neck, not ſo much with a deſire to get rid of that unſightly incumbrance, as from the conſideration of the addition it would make to his ſubjects in ſpirits. And not long ago, his wife, being with child, was terribly frightened by a pinch from a lobſter, careleſsly left in a baſket. Jack, who really loved her, was much diſtreſſed at the accident, but ſeemed to receive comfort from the opinion of the neighbouring old women, nurſe, and midwife, that in all probability the child would in ſome of its limbs

limbs or members reſemble the object of its mother's terror.

His deſire to inveſtigate uncommon objects in nature ſometimes involved him in very diſagreeable ſituations; and once in Ireland, beſides a terrible beating, had nearly drawn on him a criminal proſecution. The caſe was as follows: According to common report, there are in that country a few remaining deſcendants of the people with tails. To one of them, an old woman, he offered a very handſome ſum of money for an ocular proof of this phenomenon, and on her refuſal, attempted to ſatisfy his curioſity by force; a ſcuffle enſued, the old woman cried out, and brought two ſturdy fellows, her grandſons, to her aſſiſtance, who beat him moſt cruelly, and to complete his misfortune, laid an indictment againſt him for an aſſault, with an attempt to raviſh their grandmother; and it was not without a conſiderable expence and great trouble and intereſt, that the matter was accommodated.

No. VI.

SPECULATIVE writers on police lay it down as a maxim, that in all things private emolument and convenience muſt give way to public accommodation; juſt the contrary is, however, univerſally the practice of this metropolis, and that by perſons of all ranks.

If a lady of faſhion has a rout, the public ſtreet is blocked up by carriages, ſo as for the greateſt part of the evening to be rendered totally impaſſable; whereby the mail-coach, carrying the public diſpatches—a phyſician going in haſte to a patient—or an accoucheur to a lying-in woman, may be often ſtopped for ſeveral hours. It will be anſwered, they may go round: ſo they might, was there any ſignal hung out at the end of the ſtreet, as in the caſe of new paving it; but for want of this notice, carriages attempting to paſs become ſo involved in the *melé*, as to be unable to extricate themſelves. Nor is the nuiſance leſs inconvenient to foot-paſſengers, the pavement being entirely occupied by chairs, whoſe poles preſent themſelves like the ſpikes of a *cheval de friſe*, threatening a fracture to the knee-pans of thoſe who are ſo hardy as to attempt a paſſage. Any remon-

monſtrance or requeſt to make way, would not fail to draw down the abuſe of the party-coloured gentlemen attending.

But to leave the great, who ſeem in all countries to have the privilege of breaking the laws with impunity, let us ſee whether the public convenience is more conſidered by people in inferior ſtations.

How often do we find the foot-way at noon totally occupied by brewers, lowering down beer into the cellar of an alehouſe? Aſk one of them to permit you to paſs; the conſequence will be an inſolent reply, curſes, attended with a torrent of abuſe, if not a ſhove into the kennel.

Similar encroachments on the public paths are daily made by grocers, cheeſe-mongers, and wholeſale linen-drapers, who in the buſyeſt time of the day, in the moſt frequented ſtreets, cauſe the articles of their commerce to be roſſed into or out of a cart acroſs the pavement; in which caſe it requires ſome agility, as well as knowledge of the laws of projectiles, to avoid a blow on the head with a ſugar-loaf, a cheeſe, or a roll of linen.

If

If a cart is delivering or taking in a load in a narrow ſtreet, and the drivers find it convenient to drink a ſup of porter at the neighbouring alehouſe, no entreaties can prevail on them to hurry down their liquor; but the public way remains ſtopped up during their will and pleaſure. Nothing is more common than for gentlemen's coachmen to place their carriages ſo as to occupy the public croſſings, particularly in dirty weather. The erections called hoards, built up before houſes under repair, are in general ſo managed as to become great interruptions to paſſengers, as well as harbours to pick-pockets. Was the accommodation of the public at all conſidered, ways might be made through them.

If any lodger, dwelling up two or three pair of ſtairs, amuſes himſelf with cultivating the ſcience of botany, by means of pots ſet on the leads, it is the buſineſs of paſſengers to guard againſt the water that runs through them, as well as againſt the pots themſelves, which in windy weather are frequently blown down. In this caſe, the general ſafety yields to the amuſement of an individual.

I will not inſiſt on the little inconveniences ariſing to the public from ſervant maids waſhing their

their doors about noon, ſince that commonly happens but once a week, and does not endanger life or limb. Beſides, the trundling of their mops frequently produces employment for that uſeful artizan, the ſcourer.

No. VII.

WHAT a contraſt between a tradeſman or citizen of former times, and thoſe of our days! To go no farther back than forty or fifty years, a thriving tradeſman was almoſt as ſtationary as his ſhop; he might at all times be found there; "keep your ſhop, and your ſhop will keep you," was a maxim continually in his mind. Born within the ſound of Bow-bell, he rarely ventured out of it, except perhaps once or twice in a ſummer, when he indulged his wife and family with an expedition to Edmonton or Hornſey. On this occaſion, the whole family, dreſſed in their Sunday's clothes, were crowded together in a landau or coach hired for the day. On Eaſter or Whitſunday he might likewiſe treat himſelf to a ride on a Moorfields hack, hired at eighteen-pence a ſide, through what was then called the Cuckolds Round.

If in holiday time a friend was invited to dinner, which was not often the caſe, his fare was a large plumb pudding, with a loin of veal, the fat ſpread on a toaſt, well ſauced with melted butter, a buttock of beef, or, if the gueſt was of the Common Council, poſſibly a ham and chickens. The drink was elder or raiſin

wine made by his wife, and ſtrong ale in a ſilver tankard. The meat was brought up in new-ſcoured pewter; the apprentice cleaned the beſt knives, and the maid, with her hands before her, waited at table, ſerving every gueſt with a low curteſy. His wife was dreſſed in her beſt ſilk damaſk gown, with flowers as large as a fire-ſhovel, ſo ſtiff that it would have ſtood alone—probably left her by her mother, or grandmother.

Theſe tradeſmen paid their bills when due, and would have conceived themſelves ruined, had a banker's runner called twice for a draft; and after going through all pariſh and ward offices, as well as thoſe of their company, terminated their days in rural retirement at Turnham-green, Hackney, or Clapham Common; from whence they could now and then make a trip in their one-horſe chaiſe, to viſit the ſhop where they had acquired their fortune. The daughters of theſe men were taught all kinds of needle-work, and at a certain age were initiated into all the culinary ſecrets of the family, preſerved in a manuſcript handed down from their great grandmother. The ſons, inſtead of loſing their time in an imperfect acquiſition of a little Latin, were well grounded in Cocker's and

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Wingate's arithmetic, and perfect adepts in the rule of three and practice.

A tradesman of the present day is as seldom found in his shop as at church. A man of any spirit cannot, he says, submit to sit kicking his heels there; it is consequently left to the care of his apprentices and journeymen, whilst he goes to the coffee-house to read the news, and settle the politics of the parish. His evenings are spent at different clubs and societies. On Monday he has a neighbourly meeting, consisting of the most substantial inhabitants of the parish: this it would be extremely wrong and unsocial to neglect. On Tuesday he goes to the Sols, or Bucks, among whom he has many customers. Wednesday he dedicates to a disputing club, in order to qualify himself to make speeches in the vestry, or at the Common Council. As a man of taste and cultivator of oratory, he forms an acquaintance with some of the under players, from whom on their benefit nights he takes tickets, and at other times receives orders. If he has the misfortune to sing a good song, at least a night in the week is devoted to private concerts, of gentlemen performing for their own amusement at some public-house. As a good husband, he cannot refuse to accompany

his wife and daughters to the monthly aſſembly, held at a tavern in St. Giles's or Soho, and ſometimes to a card party, to play an innocent game at ſhilling whiſt.

During two or three of the ſummer months, he and his family take *a tower*, as they term it, to Margate, Brighton, or ſome other of the watering places, where, to make a handſome appearance, and look like themſelves, they are dreſſed out in every expenſive piece of frippery then in vogue.

If a friend is invited to take a family dinner, nothing leſs than two courſes will go down; beſides the footman, the porter, and errand boy exhibit in liveries. Claret and Madeira are the liquors.

On a tradeſman of this ſort entering into the holy ſtate of matrimony, his wife's drawing and dreſſing-rooms muſt be furniſhed according to the neweſt faſhion, with carpets, curtains, looking-glaſſes, girandoles, and all the faſhionable appendages.

If he has a family, the young ladies, as they are always ſtiled, are ſent to a boarding ſchool, where they are taught to dance, to jabber a few miſpronounced French phraſes, and to thrum

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two or three tunes on the guittar or piano-forte; but not a ſingle ſtitch of plain-work, for fear of making them hold down their heads, or ſpoiling their eyes; and as to houſewifery, they could as ſoon make a ſmoke-jack as a pudding.

The education of the male part of the family is not more ſenſible. At ſchool they are taught the Latin grammar, and advance in that language to Corderius and Cornelius Nepos, which is forgotten in three months after they leave ſchool. This, with a little French, dancing, and blowing a tune on the German flute, completes the piece.

This ſtile of living is for a while ſupported by paper credit, and aſſiſted by two or three tradeſmen of the ſame deſcription, who jointly manœuvre drafts of accommodation, and run through all the mazes of that art denominated ſwindling; till at length, overpowered by the accumulated expences of renewals, intereſt, and forbearance money, this gentleman-like tradeſman makes his appearance in the Gazette, preceded by a *Whereas*, and falls to riſe no more, but terminates his life in the Marſhalſea or King's Bench, his lady in the pariſh workhouſe, his daughters, if handſome, in a brothel, and

his ſons, unable to procure a livelihood by induſtry, make their exit at Newgate, or are ſent on their travels at the national expence—to Botany Bay.

No. VIII.

THE great number of oaths, which different laws direct to be taken, has long been an object of complaint. On almoſt every occaſion, in the Cuſtom-houſe, before the Board of Exciſe, and thoſe of every other branch of the revenue, gentlemen, merchants, and tradeſmen, are required to ſwear to the different articles of their buſineſs, commerce, or trade—often reſpecting circumſtances it is almoſt impoſſible they ſhould at all times know. Nevertheleſs, without taking ſuch oaths, their different concerns muſt all be at a ſtand.

The frequency of theſe oaths, and the ſlovenly, not to ſay irreverent and indecent, manner in which they are adminiſtered, tend greatly to take off their ſolemnity, by degrees to weaken their impreſſion on the mind, and conſequently to leſſen the horror for perjury; ſo that nothing is more common than to hear perſons, in every other inſtance men of integrity and conſcience, talk very lightly of a Cuſtom-houſe oath. Nay, indeed, it is ſaid, and I fear with too much foundation, that there are a ſet of men, who attend at the Cuſtom-houſe, under

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the denomination of *Damned Souls*, in order, for a certain fee, to ſwear out any goods whatſoever for the merchants, although they never before heard of the articles, or ſaw the parties, and are totally ſtrangers to every part of the buſineſs. But even theſe men have a kind of ſalvo to quiet their ſcruples—that is, to take a previous oath, by which they bind themſelves never to ſwear to the truth, at the Cuſtom-houſe or Exciſe-office. Surely great care ought to be taken to check every thing that may tend to familiarize perjury, or leſſen the popular reverence for an oath. Againſt falſe evidence backed by perjury, the life, honour, and fortune of the moſt harmleſs man is not ſafe.

Let any one, who hears an oath adminiſtered as it is too commonly done in our courts, ſay whether he thinks that a proper manner of addreſſing an appeal to the Great Creator of all things, and whether he would not diſcharge a ſervant, who ſhould not treat him with more reſpect?—Indeed, oaths are ſo haſtily and inattentively gabbled over by the generality of law clerks, that the only intelligible ſentence is the laſt, namely, give me a ſhilling: ſo that few perſons know the exact conditions of the oath they are taking.

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Many of the lower people are ſo little inſtructed in the nature of an oath, that they ſuppoſe they ſhall eſcape the guilt of perjury, by kiſſing their thumbs inſtead of the book; and others conceive that the crime of a falſe oath is in the direct ratio of the book on which it is taken; it being perjury to forſwear oneſelf on a common prayer book, greater on a prayer book and teſtament, and greateſt of all on the prayer book bound up with the old and new teſtament, this conſtituting what is properly called a *bible oath.*

Perhaps ſome plain practical diſcourſes from the pulpit, on the ſubject of falſe ſwearing, and the nature and obligations of an oath, would be infinitely more ſerviceable to the generality of the people, than all the ſermons on myſtical points, that were ever delivered.

No. IX.

No. IX.

NOTWITHSTANDING the enormous ſums collected for the poor, notwithſtanding the number of hoſpitals ſupported by voluntary contribution in the city and environs of London, there is no place where the feelings of humanity receive ſo many ſhocks. Every ſtreet, every alley, preſents ſome miſerable object, covered with loathſome ſores, blind, mutilated, or expoſed almoſt naked to the keen wintry blaſt.—Speak of this to any of the pariſh officers, and they will tell you, theſe are all impoſtors, who, Faquir-like, practiſe voluntary auſterities on themſelves, in order to excite compaſſion, and procure money. Sure this very plea is a diſgrace to our police, who ought in that caſe to apprehend and puniſh them. Should their diſtreſs be real, it is the greateſt inhumanity not to relieve them.

How frequently in winter do we ſee a woman, with two or three half-ſtarved infants hanging about her, apparently dying with the rigours of the ſeaſon!—If Humanity will not inſtigate the pariſh officers to take cognizance of them, ſound Policy ought; ſince theſe very children, thus edu-

educated, ſerve to carry on the ſucceſſion of thieves and vagabonds.

That begging is a trade, and a very beneficial one, is well known; and it is ſaid that the community is under the regular government of a King or Superior, who appoints to every one a particular diſtrict or walk, which walks are farmed out to inferior brethren at certain daily ſums. It is alſo reported, that beggars impoſe taſks on their children or ſervants, aſſigning them the harveſt of particular ſtreets, eſtimating each at a certain produce, for the amount of which they are bound to account, under the penalty of a ſevere beating. A remarkable inſtance of this I learned from a perſon of credit, who overheard a beggar ſaying to a girl, whilſt giving him ſome money, What is this for? Han't you all about Bedford and Bloomſbury-ſquares? I am ſure, huſſey, if Ruſſel-ſtreet alone was well begged, it would produce double this ſum.

In this community, natural defects or bodily misfortunes are reckoned advantages and pre-eminences. A man who has loſt one leg yields the *pas* to him who wants both; and he, who has neither legs nor arms, is nearly at the head of his profeſſion, very extraordinary deficiencies ex-

excepted;—an inſtance of which was given in a ſailor, who had but one eye, one leg, and no arms. This man, aſking in marriage the daughter of a celebrated blind man, was anſwered by her father—that he thanked him for the honour intended, which he ſhould have accepted, had not his daughter received ſome overtures from a man, who crawled with his hinder parts in a porridge-pot.

It ſeems a fixed principle in beggars, never to do a day's work on any account, and rather to run away from a job half-completed, than finiſh it to receive the ſtipulated hire.

I remember an old Juſtice, that lived in a village in the vicinity of London, who, from his knowledge of this principle, long contrived to have his fore-court and garden weeded gratis by itinerant beggars. As he had a handſome houſe near the road, it naturally drew the attention of the mumping fraternity. On their application for charity, he conſtantly aſked them the uſual queſtion, "Why don't you work?" To which the uſual reply was always made, "So I would, God bleſs your Worſhip, if I could get employment." On this muſing a while, as if inclined by charity, he would ſet them

them to weed his court or garden, furniſhing them with a hoe and wheelbarrow, and promiſing them a ſhilling when their job was completed. To work then they would go, with much ſeeming gratitude and alacrity. The Juſtice ſtayed by them, or viſited them from time to time till they had performed two-thirds of their taſk; he then retired to a private corner or place of eſpial, in order to prevent their ſtealing his tools, and there waited for what conſtantly happened the moment he diſappeared, which was, the elopement of his workman, who rather than complete the unfiniſhed third of his work, choſe to give up what he had done. This method, with ſcarce one diſappointment, the old Juſtice long practiſed, till at length his fame having gone forth among the medicant tribe, he was troubled with no more applications for charity.

No. X.

IN this commercial country, how much more advantageous would it be to cultivate the ſtudy of arithmetic, geometry, and geography, which, at the ſame time as they are the *ſine qua non* of an intelligent merchant, habituate the mind to a cloſe method of reaſoning, and will be found continually uſeful in every ſphere of life. The modern languages are indiſpenſibly neceſſary.

Formerly a knowledge of the learned languages was requiſite, in order to peruſe many valuable treatiſes written on arts and ſciences; but all theſe are now tranſlated, and many of them better treated in our mother tongue. But for the common occupations of life neither Greek nor Latin are abſolutely required, as a man may meaſure a yard of ſilk or linen, ſell gauze or ribband, or weigh out plumbs of tea, without having read the Iliad or Odyſſey of Homer, the Odes and Satires of Horace, or the Georgics, Bucolics, and Æneid of Virgil; and ſhould he riſe to be a Common Council-man or an Alderman, he may make a good ſpeech at the Veſtry or Common-hall, without ever having read Tully's Orations in the original tongue.

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The learned languages are indeed generally deemed indiſpenſibly neceſſary for the profeſſions of Law, Phyſic, and Surgery; but I believe, on mature inveſtigation, this opinion will be found partly erroneous. For an Engliſh common lawyer, Greek is abſolutely out of the queſtion; and ſince the pleadings have been in Engliſh, every ſpecies of form and precedent may be found in Engliſh. A clergyman and a civil lawyer cannot do without them. With reſpect to the healing arts, good ſenſe, obſervation, much practice, with a knowledge of the human frame, and qualities and effects of medicines, will enable a man to cure a diſorder, although he never read or even heard of either Galen or Hippocrates. Indeed, it is believed by many, that a total rejection of Latin, and writing the preſcriptions in plain Engliſh, would ſave the lives of many patients, that now fall ſecret victims to the ignorance of apothecaries' apprentices, who, by miſunderſtanding an abbreviation, or miſconſtruing a ſentence, may miſtake not only the quantity, but the ſpecies of the component drugs; and if this does not happen very frequently, it is not owing to the diſcretion of the phyſicians, who moſt of them affect a very illegible ſcrawl. Surely, conſidering the

exorbitant fees they receive, they might not only write better, but alſo give the words at length, at leaſt as many of them as know the terminations. With reſpect to a ſurgeon, if he is an adept in anatomy, has a good eye, and ſteady hand, he may ſet a bone, or perform an operation, without ever having learned his *propria quæ maribus*.

I would not be underſtood to decry the ſtudy of Greek and Latin as ornamental accompliſhments, but object to the common mode of its being taught indiſcriminately to all, without regard to their future plan of life.

There cannot be a more miſtaken notion than that of conſidering the knowledge of languages as learning and ſcience, to which they are really nothing more than vehicles. One might with equal propriety call a phial or pill-box medicine. Nevertheleſs, we daily ſee pedants, briſtled all over with Greek and Latin, who do not know a right angle from an acute one, or the polar circle from the tropics, and underſtand no other hiſtory but that of the intrigues between the eight parts of ſpeech, with a liſt of their progeny, lawfully begotten and baſe born. Yet theſe men look down with contempt on the ma-

mathematician, philoſopher, and chymiſt, who can expreſs themſelves in their native language only.

What has led me into this ſubject is, the conſideration of the many years of his moſt precious time, thrown away by almoſt every young man, in ſtudying the learned languages, of which the greater part are ſcarcely ever flogged into the rudiments; and few acquire more in the eight or nine years commonly waſted on it, than they completely forget in leſs than two.

No. XI.

ONE of our celebrated writers has obſerved, that there is nothing ſo indifferent to us, that we can ſay without a diſagreeable ſenſation, "we have ſeen the laſt of it." To the truth of this remark, every man who has lived long in the world can give his teſtimony. I am myſelf a man of little more than fifty years of age, and yet I have nearly outlived divers ſpecies of men and animals, as well as a variety of cuſtoms, faſhions, and opinions; and I can truly ſay, that although ſome of them were not the moſt agreeable, I cannot help recollecting them with a degree of complacency cloſely bordering on regret.

When I was a young man there exiſted in the families of moſt unmarried men or widowers, of the rank of gentlemen, reſidents in the country, a certain antiquated female, either maiden or widow, commonly an aunt or couſin. Her dreſs I have now before me: it conſiſted of a ſtiff-ſtarched cap and hood, a little hoop, a rich ſilk damaſk gown with large flowers. She leant on an ivory-headed crutch cane, and was followed by a fat phthyſicky dog of the pug kind, who commonly repoſed on a cuſhion, and enjoyed

joyed the privilege of ſnarling at the ſervants, and occaſionally biting their heels with impunity.

By the ſide of this good old lady gingled a bunch of keys, ſecuring, in different cloſets and corner-cupboards, all ſorts of cordial waters, cherry and raſberry brandy, waſhes for the complexion, Daffy's Elixir, a rich ſeed cake, a number of pots of currant jelly and raſberry jam, with a range of gallipots and phials, containing ſalves, electuaries, julaps, and purges, for the uſe of the poor neighbours. The daily buſineſs of this good lady was to ſcold the maids, collect eggs, feed the turkies, and aſſiſt at all lyings-in that happened within the pariſh. Alas! this being is no more ſeen, and the race is, like that of her pug dog and the black rat, totally extinct.

Another character, now worn out and gone, was the country 'Squire; I mean the little independent gentlemen of three hundred pounds per annum, who commonly appeared in a plain drab or pluſh coat, large ſilver buttons, a jockey cap, and rarely without boots. His travels never exceeded the diſtance of the county town, and that only at aſſize and ſeſſion time, or to attend

attend an election. Once a week he commonly dined at the next market town, with the Attornies and Juſtices. This man went to church regularly, read the Weekly Journal, ſettled the parochial diſputes between the pariſh officers at the veſtry, and afterwards adjourned to the neighbouring ale-houſe, where he uſually got drunk for the good of his country. He never played at cards but at Chriſtmas, when a family pack was produced from the mantle-piece. He was commonly followed by a couple of grey-hounds and a pointer, and announced his arrival at a neighbour's houſe by ſmacking his whip, or giving the view-hollow. His drink was generally ale, except on Chriſtmas, the fifth of November, or ſome other gala days, when he would make a bowl of ſtrong brandy punch, garniſhed with a toaſt and nutmeg. A journey to London was by one of theſe men reckoned as great an undertaking, as is at preſent a voyage to the Eaſt Indies, and undertaken with ſcarce leſs precaution and preparation.

The manſion of one of theſe 'Squires was of plaiſter ſtriped with timber, not unaptly called callimanco work, or of red brick, large caſemented bow windows, a porch with ſeats in it, and over it a ſtudy; the eaves of the houſe well inha-

inhabited by ſwallows, and the court ſet round with holley-hocks. Near the gate a horſe-block for the conveniency of mounting.

The hall was furniſhed with flitches of bacon, and the mantle-piece with guns and fiſhing-rods of different dimenſions, accompanied by the broad ſword, partizan, and dagger, borne by his anceſtor in the civil wars. The vacant ſpaces were occupied by ſtags horns. Againſt the wall was poſted King Charles's Golden Rules, Vincent Wing's Almanack, and a portrait of the Duke of Marlborough; in his window lay Baker's Chronicle, Fox's Book of Martyrs, Glanvil on Apparitions, Quincey's Diſpenſatory, the Complete Juſtice, and a Book of Farriery.

In the corner, by the fire ſide, ſtood a large wooden two-armed chair with a cuſhion; and within the chimney corner were a couple of ſeats. Here at Chriſtmas he entertained his tenants aſſembled round a glowing fire made of the roots of trees, and other great logs, and told and heard the traditionary tales of the village reſpecting ghoſts and witches, till fear made them afraid to move. In the mean time the jorum of ale was in continual circulation.

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The beſt parlour, which was never opened but on particular occaſions, was furniſhed with Turk-worked chairs, and hung round with portraits of his anceſtors; the men in the character of ſhepherds, with their crooks, dreſſed in full ſuits and huge full-bottomed perukes; others in complete armour or buff coats, playing on the baſe viol or lute. The females likewiſe as ſhepherdeſſes, with the lamb and crook, all habited in high heads and flowing robes.

Alas! theſe men and theſe houſes are no more. The luxury of the times has obliged them to quit the country, and become the humble dependants on great men, to ſolicit a place or commiſſion to live in London, to rack their tenants, and draw their rents before due. The venerable manſion in the meantime is ſuffered to tumble down, or is partly upheld as a farm-houſe; till, after a few years, the eſtate is conveyed to the ſteward of the neighbouring Lord, or elſe to ſome Nabob, Contractor, or Limb of the Law.

No. XII.

THERE is certainly ſome ſatisfaction in relating one's grievances, although without a chance of procuring any alleviation. Permit me, therefore, to trouble you with a recital of mine, which, from as happy a woman as any within the ſound of Bow-bell, have made me extremely uncomfortable.

I am, Mr. Grumbler, the wife of a wealthy citizen, who, having made up his plumb, retired from buſineſs, with a reſolution to ſpend the remainder of his days like a gentleman. For this purpoſe, he took a handſome houſe in Bedford-ſquare, and, gradually dropping his mercantile acquaintance, cultivated an intimacy with Maſters in Chancery and Counſellors, and was actually known and bowed to by one of the Welch Judges.

As my huſband was of a convivial turn, he ſubſcribed to moſt of the great hoſpitals, and was complimented by many of them with a Governor's ſtaff. To this I had no great objection; it introduced him into reſpectable company, and, except an extra fit or two of the gout, occaſioned by their veniſon feaſts, it was attended with

with few or no ill conſequences. But mark the ſequel.

One unlucky day, after dinner, my huſband accidentally pulling out a handful of pocket-pieces, keep-ſakes, and other trumpery, there happened to be among them a Pope Joan's ſix-pence, and ſome other old popiſh pieces, coined before Julius Cæſar, that had been given him by an old aunt; they were noticed by a grave-looking, doctor-like man, who ſat near him, and who extolled them to the ſkies, as great curioſities, and begged leave to exhibit them to the Society of *Antic-queer-ones*; to which my huſband accompanied him, and had the honour of being introduced to ſeveral Lords, Biſhops, and other great people, as the learned poſſeſſor of thoſe valuable pieces of antiquity. It may eaſily be conceived that my huſband did not want much entreaty to become a member of ſo reſpectable a Society; he was therefore, in an evil hour, propoſed, and in due time balloted for and elected.

What the religion of this Society may be, I cannot take upon me to determine. From the number of Biſhops and other Clergy that belong to it, one would be apt to think they are Proteſtants;

teſtants; though from the multitude of croſſes, legends of ſaints, repreſentations of nuns and friars, and other ſuperſtitious articles, that form the ſubjects of their enquiries, they have greatly the appearance of *Papiſts*.

Whatever may be their tenets, the alteration in the behaviour of my huſband, ſhortly after his introduction into this fraternity, is hardly to be conceived; it has ſo totally changed all his purſuits and amuſements, that I have more than once thought his underſtanding ſomewhat deranged. Formerly he uſed to make a viſit to the watering places every ſummer, where he attended the rooms, and aſſociated with the company; or in his morning rides on the South Downs, from Brighthelmſtone, would alight from the chariot, and divert himſelf with looking for wheat-ears, gathering muſhrooms, or ſome other ſuch rational purſuit. Now he minds nothing but hunting for large bumps of earth, or ragged ſtones ſet up an end; for theſe he has ſtrange names, which I have almoſt forgot: I think he calls them *Tumbuluſſes* and *Cram-licks*, and ſays they were Pagan churches and burial-places, and talks of digging them up. Surely no good can come of diſturbing the bones of Chriſtians; for, Mr. Grumbler, though they

be Pagans, they are nevertheleſs Chriſtians like you or me. He alſo takes tours to viſit ruinous caſtles and abbeys, vaults and church-yards, and has a cloſet full of broken glaſs, and braſs plates, purchaſed of country ſextons, by them ſtolen from the widows and grave-ſtones of their reſpective churches.

Before this unhappy period, when he received his dividends at the Bank or India-houſe, he would bring me home ſome little piece of plate or ornamental china, for my mantle-piece or beaufet. Alas! thoſe times are no more; all the plate and china are removed, and in their room the ſhelves ſtuffed full of broken pans, brazen lamps, copper chizzels, bell metal, milk-pots, and a parcel of outlandiſh halfpence, eat up with canker. For one of theſe pieces, as green as a leek, I am told he actually gave a guinea. This piece, I underſtand, owes this amazing price to its being an eunuch. Folks muſt love thoſe kind of cattle better than I do, to give ſo much for their effigies.

Beſides laying out his money on theſe abſurd nick-nacks, my huſband is continually ſubſcribing to and purchaſing a number of ſtrange books, whoſe names are followed by the letters F. A. S. What theſe letters mean I know not, but fear no

no good. T'other day he brought home a huge book, as big as a table, full of prints of tombs, coffins, men in armour, and ladies in winding-sheets; and another almoſt as large, which he told me was the Domeſday Book. Alas! I fear theſe gloomy ſubjects will give the poor man a melancholy turn, that may end in ſuicide.

In ſhort, if his mind does not take a ſpeedy turn to more agreeable objects, we muſt part, as I cannot think of living like an undertaker's wife, ſurrounded by every thing that can remind one of mortality.

No. XIII.

A PROPER attention to the education of children is in general deemed one of the moſt important conſiderations of life, yet in practice there is not one leſs attended to. A country 'Squire, before he puts out a puppy to a dog-breaker, carefully enquires into the man's abilities and qualification for his buſineſs; but the ſame 'Squire will entruſt the care and inſtruction of his ſon or daughter to perſons of whom he knows nothing at all, and that without the precaution of enquiring their moral characters, or capability of executing their undertaking.

Formerly ſuch enquiry was leſs neceſſary than at preſent, as no one could keep a ſchool without a licence from the Biſhop of the dioceſe, who, it muſt be preſumed, would not grant one without a previous ſcrutiny into the moral character and literary abilities of the candidate for ſuch licence. This regulation was made to prevent the growth of Popery and fanaticiſm; but as neither is at preſent feared, and religion being pretty much out of faſhion, the law, though ſtill in force, is grown into diſuſe.

To

To look at the number of academies in almoſt every ſtreet, and to read the advertiſements of them in our daily papers, one would be apt to think that the children of the preſent generation bid fair to have moſt excellent educations; but, on examining into the qualifications of the maſters, and (as they are now politely called) the governeſſes of theſe ſeminaries, it will be found that nine-tenths of them have ſcarcely one requiſite for their profeſſion.

To begin with the academies for young gentlemen—The maſter, who is perhaps a broken exciſeman, rarely profeſſes more than to teach writing and arithmetic, though not to be idle, he hears the leſſer boys repeat Lilly's grammar rules by heart. French is taught by a Swiſs, or an Iriſh Papiſt, a deſerter from the Brigades; and the learned languages by an ungraduated Welch curate. Dancing is taught by a German valet-de-chambre, and muſic by a quondam fiddler to a puppet-ſhow.

Their bodily food is not more exquiſite than that prepared for their minds; and many of theſe grammar-caſtles are held in an edifice of two rooms on a floor, and have an extenſive

play-ground for the children to exercise themselves in, measuring about fifteen feet by twenty.

The qualifications of a governess of young ladies are still lower; that department being generally filled by discarded Abigails, who can scarcely read English, and jabber a few English phrases literally translated into French. If, besides this, they can flourish muslin, or perform two or three ornamental and useless species of needle-work, they consider themselves as fully competent. An assistant, called *Mademoiselle*, is a necessary post of the establishment. These ladies have commonly acquired their learning as half boarders in some great school, and, like Chaucer's Nun, speak the French of Stratford near to Bow, being equally ignorant with her of the French of Paris.

An itinerant dancing-master and a deputy organist teach the young ladies dancing and music; indeed the chief study of the governess is directed to these qualifications, particularly the former, and "Miss, hold up your head, and sit like a lady," is an admonition she mechanically repeats every ten minutes. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at, that little or no useful needle-

needle-work is taught here, as that is apt to give young ladies a habit of poking out their heads.

Such are in general the inſtructors of the riſing generation; what can be expected from ſuch an education?

No. XI.

AS the preſent various exhibitions of Paintings occaſion the term *Connoiſſeur* to be frequently repeated, I ſhall in this eſſay endeavour to ſhew the neceſſary qualifications entitling any one to that denomination.

Formerly it was requiſite that the perſon ſo deſcribed ſhould be deeply initiated in the circle of fine arts; for example, that he ſhould be completely read in the works of Vitruvius, Palladio, and all the famous architects; that he ſhould be well verſed in Geometry and Mechanics, underſtand Perſpective, both linear and aerial, and not unacquainted with the principles of Anatomy. It was alſo neceſſary that he was maſter of the theory of pictureſque beauty, compoſition and deſign, and by a diligent ſtudy of the beſt productions of the antique and moſt celebrated maſters in Sculpture and Painting, to have made himſelf acquainted with their different ſtiles, excellencies, and defects. Such were the acquiſitions required formerly to entitle a man to the appellation of *Connoiſſeur*. How unlike to theſe are the modern qualifications for the ſame denomination!

The

The firſt requiſite, nay, I may ſay the *ſine qua non*, for forming a modern Connoiſſeur, is money; it being held impoſſible that a man of ſmall or no fortune can underſtand any thing of the fine arts, or at leaſt can demonſtrate his proficiency in them, by purchaſing, at great prices, the almoſt inviſible pictures of the ancient maſters.

The next requiſite, almoſt indiſpenſibly neceſſary, is to have made the grand tour, and to have viſited the city of Rome. The fineſt pieces of art, conſidered and ſtudied out of that country, on any other ſpot whatſoever, convey no kind of inſtruction, the principles of Connoiſſeurſhip being there inhaled with the air.

Some little ſtudy is indeed neceſſary to put theſe acquiſitions in a conſpicuous light; but this is a mere matter of memory—I mean names and terms, ſuch as Michael Angelo, Raphael, the Carraches, Guido, Corregio, Titian, and Paul Veroneſe—the colouring of the Venetian ſchool—claro obſcuro—keeping contour, grand guſto, with a few others eaſily acquired. To apply them with ſome degree of propriety, a few days ſpent in the company of the Cicceroni and picture-dealers of Rome will give a general

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and ſufficient information. If to theſe acquiſitions the modern Connoiſſeur ſhould add a journey through the Netherlands, he may encreaſe the catalogue of painters, with the names of Reubens, Vandyck, Teniers, Oſtade, Berghem, Rembrandt, &c. &c. which, with a fortnight's ſtudy of Du Piles and Florent Le Compte, will make him paſs in all companies for a conſummate virtuoſo.

One thing I had like to have omitted, which is of great efficacy in eſtabliſhing the character of a profound judge in the arts;—this is, the candidate for that diſtinction muſt on all occaſions remember to decry the works of Engliſh artiſts, particularly thoſe who have never travelled; it being abſolutely neceſſary, in order to paint the portrait of an Engliſh man, an Engliſh woman, an Engliſh horſe, or to repreſent an Engliſh landſcape, that the artiſt ſhould have ſtudied the men, women, animals, and views of Italy.

The honorary title of an Amateur or collector of prints, which is a Connoiſſeur of an inferior order, likewiſe requires money as the firſt qualification. The means of being admitted to this honourable claſs, is to purchaſe at enormous prices, not the beſt pieces, but the ſcarceſt of each

each maſter. Thus, the Heedleſs Gold-weigher, the Horſe with the White Tail, and Lazarus without a Cap, are all etchings by Rembrandt, abſolutely neceſſary to be found in the collection of one deſirous of being diſtinguiſhed as an Amateur and capital collector.

A collector of Hogarths muſt give a greater price for an impreſſion of the head of a tankard or ſhop-bill engraved by that artiſt when an apprentice, than for his March to Finchley, Strollers in a Barn, Election Dinner, or any of his beſt pieces. The great point of view in a collector is to poſſeſs that not poſſeſſed by any other. It is ſaid of a collector lately deceaſed, that he uſed to purchaſe ſcarce prints at enormous prices, in order to deſtroy them, and thereby render the remaining impreſſions more ſcarce and valuable.

No. XV.

POLITENESS and hoſpitality, though in themſelves moſt amiable virtues, require a conſiderable portion of good ſenſe and knowledge of the world, to govern the exerciſe of them, otherwiſe, even attended with the greateſt ſincerity, they frequently diſtreſs the parties on whom they are employed, more than the moſt virulent attacks of malevolence; and what makes theſe ſufferings the more intolerable is, that ſhould the ſufferers complain, they are liable to be taxed, by ſuperficial reaſoners, with ingratitude. The truth of this aſſertion I moſt diſtreſsfully experienced in a late excurſion to draw ſome ancient ruins, in which my time was limited to three days. Unluckily ſome friends, who knew my errand, prevailed on me to take letters of recommendation to different gentlemen, reſiding near the ſubjects of my inveſtigation.

The firſt object of my enquiry was a ruined Abbey, which belonged to a gentleman who reſided near it, and to whom I had a letter. As I was informed he was a man of taſte, and a lover of the arts, I therefore promiſed myſelf great

great pleaſure from his company, and contrived to reach his houſe the evening of my ſetting out. This I accompliſhed with much fatigue, intending to riſe early the next morning to make the propoſed drawing. On my arrival, I found him at tea with his family, in a chearful parlour enlivened by a good fire, which, it being autumn and the day rather cool, was far from diſagreeable. On producing my letter, I was received with the greateſt cordiality, and the tea-table ordered to be removed to the beſt parlour. This, as the carpet and chairs were to be uncovered, the ſilver urn heated, and the fire lighted, took up a conſiderable time, which was farther prolonged by the ſmoking of the chimney; ſo that it was impoſſible to endure the room for near an hour after it was ready. When the ſmoke had ſubſided, and the room was reported habitable, another delay took place, occaſioned by the abſence of the lady and her eldeſt daughter, they having ſlipt away, to make themſelves (as they expreſſed it) fit to be ſeen. All theſe matters combined in throwing back the ſupper till half an hour after ten o'clock. It was in vain for me to declare I never ate ſuppers, that the lighteſt meal prevented my ſleeping the whole night: a moſt ſumptuous ſupper was pro-

vided, and by dint of importunity I was forced to load my ſtomach with a variety of meats. This, with a cold caught by the dampneſs of the parlour, or that of the beſt bed, with which I was honoured, prevented me from cloſing my eyes all the night. Indeed we did not retire to bed till half an hour after two. The ſervants ſeized my boots, and on my remonſtrating againſt it, and mentioning my going out early in the morning, the lady of the houſe declared, ſhe could not think of ſuffering me to go into the air with an empty ſtomach, but that ſhe would take care breakfaſt ſhould be ready by ten o'clock.

I was up and dreſſed long before the appointed hour; but as the ſervants had not been in bed the greateſt part of the night, my boots were not for a long time forthcoming. At half an hour after ten my landlord made his appearance, and apologized to me for his lady, who had overſlept herſelf, but would be down in ten minutes. Unluckily, the lady was of that age that ſtill (as ſhe thought) juſtified a pretence to admiration. Dreſſing was therefore a buſineſs not to be ſlightly hurried over; and that favourite counſellor, the glaſs, was ſo often and ſo minutely conſulted, that the clock announced the

the eleventh hour before Madam made her appearance. The arrangement of the family plate, the diſplay of the beſt china, and a variety of other matters, made it near one before we aroſe from breakfaſt.

I was now making the beſt of my way to my horſe, when the gentleman and his lady informed me, they intended to accompany me to the ruin. By half an hour after one we were fairly under way, but as it was not above a mile or two to the ſpot, the gentleman took us round about the grounds, to ſhew me ſome improvements he had lately made, and a pretty Chineſe ſummer-houſe planned by his lady. This took us up near an hour more; but in ſome meaſure to remedy the loſs of time, they undertook to lead me by a ſhort bridle-way through the fields, to the centre of the ruins; but here we were again diſappointed; for, after paſſing through ſeveral gates, the laſt we came to was locked. We in vain attempted to pick the lock, or force it open; and as none of us would venture to leap it, we were obliged to go back by the way we came. At length, however, by three o'clock we were actually on the deſired ſpot. I, who had previous to my ſetting out made myſelf acquainted with the ich-

nography of the building, and pitched on the beſt point of view to draw it in, was proceeding to ſketch it; but the gentleman, who valued himſelf on his taſte, inſiſted on my going to two or three other ſtations, in order to ſee all the beauties of the ruin. Theſe he ſo minutely conſidered and diſcuſſed, that it was half an hour paſt three before I was permitted to return to the place I had firſt choſen.

The object was the moſt pictureſque that ever employed the pencil of an artiſt; the light was happily circumſtanced, and I had already ſketched in three parts of the view, when my friend came up with his watch in his hand, to tell me we ſhould with difficulty be home by dinner-time, and that if we did not make haſte, the veniſon would be over-roaſted. I made uſe of a thouſand arguments and entreaties, to induce him to permit me to remain and finiſh my drawing; but he was inexorable, and beſides told me, he had invited a neighbouring connoiſſeur to meet me, knowing it would give me pleaſure, and that I might come back and complete my ſketch after dinner.

We got back to a profuſe dinner, which I will not deſcribe, and did not leave the table, till it was much too late to think of returning

to

to the ruin; beſides, the lady inſiſted on my making one at a rubber of whiſt, which laſted till midnight, and it was near two of the clock before we retired to reſt.

Thus two days were conſumed, without my having done a ſtroke in the buſineſs for which I came, and all occaſioned by an ill-judged politeſſe and miſplaced civility.

No. XVI.

AMONG the many diſagreeable conſequences ariſing from an improper education, there is hardly one that renders a man more uncomfortable to himſelf, and troubleſome to ſociety, than that of being over dainty in his food, or over nice in the other articles of accommodation.—Only ſons of great families, eſpecially if educated under the mother's eye, and ſickly children raiſed by art, rarely eſcape theſe misfortunes. In many perſons it is affected, under the idea of ſhewing their ſenſibility or importance. But of theſe I do not at preſent mean to treat.

On the firſt appearance of theſe propenſities to over-delicacy, it is the indiſpenſible duty of all parents and guardians to oppoſe and counteract them with all poſſible vigour; the future happineſs of their child or ward in a great meaſure depending on it. A youth ſhould be taught to eat all ſorts of wholeſome food variouſly cooked; to overcome all whims, vulgarly ſtiled antipathies; to ſuffer the common inconveniences of heat and cold without murmuring; and, though I do not require that he ſhould be obliged to thruſt his noſe into a ſtink, I would have

have him learn to encounter one without fainting.

In a late excurſion into Wales, in company with a gentleman labouring under the misfortune of what is called a delicate taſte, I had an opportunity, and a very diſagreeable one it was, of experiencing the many inconveniences to which one viſited with ſuch a taſte is ſubjected, and alſo ſubjects the reſt of the company.

This gentleman appears, from his ſtrength, health, and ſize, calculated to perform the moſt athletic exerciſes, and formed to endure every ſpecies of hardſhip, and though by no means wanting in either good ſenſe or good nature, has, by the improper indulgence of a mother and maiden aunt, acquired ſo many diſlikes, antipathies, and refinements, that he ſeems in danger of ſtarving in the larder of the London Tavern. But to give my readers ſome idea of his character, I will relate the tranſactions of a morning during the above-mentioned excurſion.

On our arrival at the inn of a ſmall Welch town, we were received by the harper, with that celebrated Cambrian air called "*Of a Noble Race was Shenkin.*" This was meant to do us honour. A harper makes an indiſpenſible part of the

the eſtabliſhment of a Welch houſe of entertainment, and the tune is a favourite one throughout the country, as was teſtified by the geſticulations of all the ſurrounding natives, who were aſſembled round our carriage in great numbers. At the very firſt note, my friend, who values himſelf on his taſte in muſic, ſtopping his ears, ordered our blind minſtrel to ceaſe that infernal din, which jarred his head to pieces. Taffy reluctantly obeyed, and the audience ſeparated with murmurs of diſapprobation.

Although it was now the month of May, my friend ordered a fire; but as the chimney ſmoked, he ſet open the doors and windows, by which the room was rendered colder than before the introduction of the fire. Upon this being obſerved to him, he replied, it was his rule to have a fire till the middle of June.

As we had travelled all that morning over ſome bleak mountains, our appetites were pretty well whetted, and my companion enquired earneſtly what we could have for dinner. The anſwer was, trouts, chickens, muttom-ham, and eggs.—A bill of fare, ſufficient to ſatiate the appetite of a London Alderman!

The whole was ordered to be got ready. The firſt diſh preſented was the chickens; they were tole-

tolerably well roaſted, but not quite truſſed *ſecundem artem*. On obſerving this, my friend ordered them off the table, ſaying, they looked as if they had been drowned in a ditch, and were ſtretching out their legs and wings, as in the act of attempting to ſwim. To theſe ſucceeded a diſh of fine little brook trouts; the landlady was interrogated when they were taken, and on her anſwering yeſterday, they were ſent after the chickens—my companion declaring it was another of his rules, never to eat trout, except juſt taken out of the water. The eggs were then produced—when were they laid?—this day—let me look at them, the grain of the ſhell is ſmooth, it ſhould be rough;—the eggs were therefore condemned. The butter next underwent a ſcrutiny—when was it churned?—yeſterday—is it ſalted, or without ſalt?—it has a ſprinkle of ſalt in it. This, and it not being of that day's churning, cauſed its rejection. A fine plate of mutton-ham was next ſet on the table, but unluckily it had been cut acroſs inſtead of with the grain of the meat.

My friend now began to lament our misfortune in ſtopping at a houſe, where he could not get a morſel fit to put into his mouth. He, however, rather than ſtarve, agreed to try an egg

egg or two, although their ſhells were ſmooth; but unluckily, on calling for the ſalt, he found it was of the common ſort, inſtead of rock ſalt.

He then aſked for ſome bread and cheeſe, and ſkinning the loaf all around, broke the cruſt into mammocks and fragments, with which he ſtrewed the table all over, and digging out the centre of the cheeſe, in a part before uncut, bit a ſmall piece of it, and threw the reſt down on the ground, declaring it was not fit for Chriſtians. This laſt indignity to the cheeſe was too much for our landlady to bear, who, I ſaw, had for a long time with difficulty reſtrained her anger; but unable any longer to bridle it, ſhe told him his *petters* had been entertained in her houſe, and found wherewithal to make a comfortable meal; that not longer ago than yeſterday Squire Jones and Squire Davis both dined there, and went away well pleaſed; that if he did not like her houſe, he might go where he could find better fare; and that ſhe could not bear to ſee bread, the ſtaff of life, ſo waſted. It was not without great difficulty I prevented the enraged daughter of Cadwallader from turning us out of her houſe; but as I had made a hearty meal, and commended her proviſion, at my requeſt ſhe deſiſted from farther hoſtilities.

My

My companion, who, as I before obſerved, was not deficient in good ſenſe, ſaw he had gone too far, and in ſome meaſure made the *amende honorable*, by praiſing her ale, which ſhe ſaid was of her own brewing; and the reconciliation was entirely completed by his obſerving, that Miſs Winifred, one of the little dirty children running about the houſe, had a genteel appearance, and greatly reſembled one of the young Princeſſes.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM